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HISTORIAN'S OFFICE.

Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints.

C I R C U L A R .

Epistle to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in the Eastern States, sent Greeting :

BELOVED BRETHREN : — With heartfelt gratitude to my Heavenly Father, who has preserved my life amid dangers, on the land and on the waters, during the past summer, and has permitted me to return to my family and kind-hearted friends, and to the particular charge conferred upon me, after having had the pleasure to meet and pass a few weeks with my beloved brethren, who have been compelled to leave this nation and seek new homes in the wilderness, for the sake of the pure principles of the Gospel of the Son of God, and that I am still counted worthy of a standing and place with my brethren, and have again the privilege of sending you this epistle, to give you information and instructions concerning the gathering together of the people of God, that they may escape the evil that is fast hastening upon the nations.

You have undoubtedly been anxiously waiting to hear from me since my return from the Camp of Israel, now on their way to California. It was expected that a vessel would have gone in September, but as there was not means enough to warrant the chartering of a vessel, we did not send it. I suppose some had made up their minds to go by water, and may be disappointed ; but let such now gather together their means, and go with us by land in the spring, and be

with the church, and help to build up cities and temples to the Most High in the mountains. I am certain that all the Saints in the Eastern Lands, if they fully understood, would choose to go by land over the mountains.

I have received instruction from the Counsel of the Church to come by land, and go on with them in the spring, which I most cheerfully have decided to do, and am now making preparations for the journey; and I would call upon all who desire to gather with the saints, to begin to make ready; and I hope all who have or can get means, will be ready and go with the Church next spring; now is a good time to gather; what a year or two will bring, forth is unknown; but the prospects around us look as if the Lord was now giving us an opportunity to depart in peace; and let no one lay it to my charge in the hour of trouble, which is fast hastening, that I did not warn you; for I tell you the time will come when the Saints will find it difficult to gather. Let those who can go now and do not, beware, lest their way is hedged up, so that they cannot go when they would. It is a time of trial and purging to the Church, proving who are the true sheep of the fold, and who the fearful and unbelieving are. They are they who turn back in the hour of danger, persecution, trials, troubles and afflictions, and forsake their brethren when most needed. Let such repent, lest they meet the fate of the damned, as the Prophet said they should. The work of God stands higher, and in a better and more glorious position than it has since the Angel of God broke the midnight stillness of ages, and spoke to the Prophet Joseph, and

conferred upon man the authority of God. Our brethren are in wagons and tents, and log cabins; yet they are a nation of brave and noble souls, ready to meet difficulties of any nature without murmuring. And should any conclude to accompany me next Spring, let them be men and women, who go cheerfully, ready to meet any privation or trouble that may come in our way. Such a company will be an honor to themselves and to their brethren. Let me have the pleasure and honor of gathering up a company to take over the mountains, who shall be worthy to be called the Sons of God, and who, like our Pilgrim Fathers, left their homes, and came across the pathless ocean and made new homes amid the red men, that they might worship God in their own way. So let us do that our children and childrens' children may rise up and call us blessed, when the kingdom of God shall be established; the ensign upon the mountains be reared, and the Law go forth from Zion, to which the nations and kingdoms of this world shall bow, when she shall become terrible as an army with banners, and shall put on her beautiful garments, and stretch forth her dominions, and power, and influence, until persecution, oppression, tyranny and wickedness shall cease, and not be found upon the Earth: to which day I gladly look forward, and for which I am willing to labor with my brethren, until it is brought to pass.

Things are going well in the Camp: it is peace and union, and the few weeks that I passed there, were the happiest and best of my life. Their kindness and good feeling towards me was such as cannot be soon forgotten. The Church in the East is generally in good condition. A few apostates have been howling

around in the different cities, and gathering up with them the filth and scum of the Church, so that the Church is in a better condition than it has been for many months. Rigdomism is dead — and Strangism will die. The seeds of death are in her, for she is composed of disaffected apostate spirits, and will, as soon as the true-hearted Saints are gone, quarrel with themselves. The sure way to kill them is to let them alone; and this is a sure remedy.

We intend to start in March, which will enable us to arrive at Council Bluffs by the first of May, at which time the Camp will start for the mountains. We shall probably charter a steamboat at St. Louis, which will take us to Council Bluffs, with our wagons &c. A few men can be sent through by land and purchase cattle and drive up to Council Bluffs, and have them ready for us when we get there. Persons can go from Boston in a vessel to New Orleans for \$6.00 fare, and children for \$3.00. This does not include board — but you can take your own provisions. The expense from New Orleans to St. Louis will be from \$4.00 to \$6.00, and the cost from St. Louis to Council Bluffs probably from \$10.00 to \$12.00. Some will ask, Where shall we get our wagons? To which I will say, You can get your wagons at St. Louis, or get the running parts made here, and ship them by the way of New Orleans. I think I can get them shipped for \$4.00 or \$5.00 to St. Louis from Boston. Passengers can ship as cheap from New York and Philadelphia as from Boston; but I can send freight from Boston for $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per foot, while at New York they will charge 8 cents. I shall get my wagons, (the running part,) made here. I can get better timber

than the Western timber, and can be sure of having good wagons, so that they will be of value after we get to our journey's end. At St. Louis we can get our lumber and have our wagon bodies made as we want them; which can be done in a few days after the running parts arrive there. The bodies will not be put together until we get to Council Bluffs, as they will pack away so as not to take up so much room as if put together.

Wagons will cost, all completed, with covering, from \$50.00 to \$60.00. Some have spoken to me to get them wagons built, and I have got some wagons building, and if any one wants a wagon, and will forward me \$10.00, in advance for each wagon, I will cause them to be built, if you let me know immediately, and when done you can pay the balance, and I will ship them to St. Louis; but if it is better for you, get your own wagons built, but get good ones, wooden axletrees are more convenient as they are easier put in if broken — should any get them built, the run of them should be five feet wide, if the felloes are wide they will be better than narrow ones; our groceries we will generally get at St. Louis, where we can buy at wholesale and save the retail profit. I will give you a list of the articles which will be needed on the journey.

Bill of Particulars for Emigrants leaving this Government next Spring.

Each family consisting of five persons to be provided with one good strong wagon, well covered, with light box; two yoke of oxen; two or more milch cows; three sheep, if convenient; one thousand pounds of flour, or other bread stuffs in good sacks;

one good musket or rifle to each male over the age of twelve years; one pound of powder; four pounds of lead; one pound of tea; five pounds of coffee; one hundred pounds of sugar; one-half pound Cayenne pepper; two pounds of black pepper; one-half pound of mustard; ten pounds of rice; one pound of cinnamon; one pound of ginger; one-half pound of cloves; one dozen nutmegs; twenty-five pounds of salt; ten pounds of sauerkraut; ten pounds of dried apples, or peaches; twenty pounds of dried pumpkin; twenty-five pounds of seed grain; one gallon of alcohol; one-half bushel of beans; a few pounds of dried beef, or bacon; twenty pounds of soap; one pound of blue vitriol; fish-hooks and lines; fifteen pounds of iron and steel; a few pounds of wrought nails; from twenty-five to one hundred pounds farming and mechanical tools. Cooking utensils, to consist of bake-kettle, frying-pan, coffee-pot, tea kettle, tin cups, plates, knives and forks, spoons, and pans as few as will do. A good tent for each two families, if convenient. Clothing and bedding for each family not to exceed five hundred pounds. Horses and mules can be used as well as oxen, except that the oxen will do better on grass than the horse or mule, without grain, and are less liable to be taken by the Indians. The wagon covers and tents should be made of cotton duck; it is better than linen, and persons wishing either, if they will inform me and send me the money, I will get them. Tents will cost from fifteen to twenty dollars. Your oxen will probably cost about thirty dollars a pair, and cows from ten to fifteen dollars each. If some are not able to get two yoke of oxen, they can yoke up their cows. I saw many cows in

their teams. It is said that they do well, and it will save leading them. We can probably get our flour from \$1,50 to \$2,00 per hundred.

I have been particular in giving you a full detail, so that the poor can count up the cost. I think the expense of getting to Counsel Bluffs will be from twenty-five to thirty dollars, for each man or woman, and children half price. At any rate, it will be well to calculate enough. It is likely that some will not be able to get means to get out this spring; but let not such be discouraged, for if they are faithful, the way will be opened for them. And such as have a desire to go, and can get means to go out as far as Council Bluffs, can do so, and plant and sow and sell their crops to the brethren as they come up, by which you will be able to fit yourselves out another spring. There will be plenty of Cabins empty in the spring, and if you get upon the trail, I give you my word that you, if faithful, will be gathered up to the body of the church.

President Young told me that he would send back teams for the Eastern brethren, and that they should not stop until all who had a desire were gathered; but we cannot send teams to Boston or New York, and there are none so poor but that they can gather together enough to go part way. Let the rich who have a plenty, furnish teams for the poor, and receive the teams after you get over, which will be of more value than in this country; now is the time for us to help one another, and he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord. I intend to visit as many of them branches this winter as possible; but after having been to so much expense this summer, and being in

debt, I shall not be able to visit you, unless you can help me to mne for money expenses. Persons wishing any particular information on any subject can write to me, (post paid,) and I will give you the same. Those who decide to go with us, will inform me, or any of the general presiding officers of the church. Let there be no delay, for if you do, you will be too late, as the time of departure will come soon — only about three months before we must start, if we go in the first camp, and I intend to go, if I go alone.

I expect, when we get gathered up at St. Louis, there will be from one to two thousand, all ready to start by the first of April. I have received two letters from Elder J. A. Stratton, President of the Church, in St. Louis, stating that there had been some persons there from the Camp, and that all things were going on well; and so they must go, while under the direction of President Young and his quorum, for they are men of God, and I know it as sure as the Lord God liveth and hath spoken by his spirit. Three of the Twelve Apostles, Orson Hyde, P. P. Pratt and John Taylor, have sailed for England, to regulate the Church and transact some important business, which, may God grant that they will be able to do, for the upbuilding of his kingdom. I expect that they will return and go with us in the spring.

Now, brethren, be up and doing, and may the Lord bless you and save you in his kingdom, Amen.

J. C. LITTLE,

President of the Eastern Churches.

PETERBOROUGH, N. H., Nov. 12th, 1846.

N. B. — All communications must be post paid.